

SOLID INSIDE WASTE

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE



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During the past ten years, residents have been bombarded with recycling messages. They've been told to recycle everything from used oil to Christmas trees. And now the electronic waste issue is another hot topic. But many residents still feel detached from the concept and think recycling is just a big hassle. Wendell Johnson and Alison Sherman from the City of Torrance have proven that recycling can be fun and beneficial to all.

Although Wendell and Alison work in separate departments, Wendell in Engineering and Alison in Street Services, their involvement in waste management issues have them in sync when it comes to helping their community.

Wendell is currently the project coordinator for the NPDES permit and finds himself besieged with BMPs, CEQAs, and WMAPs, a language unfamiliar to most of us. On a good day, you can find Wendell exerting his energy to help create environmental projects for middle school students.

A water conservation program called Living Wise gives students an opportunity to learn how they can help conserve water. During classroom visits, kits containing parts to change the water pressure of sinks, toilets, and faucets are distributed so students can learn hands-on techniques for saving water.

While Wendell is busy with the middle school students, Alison, the City's Waste Management Coordinator, finds herself creating lesson plans for the 17 elementary schools located in the City. She teaches many environmental lessons to the thousands of students on topics such as composting, household hazardous waste, and used oil. These lessons have become quite popular and Alison appreciates the positive feedback she receives from schools.

"It amazes me that after five years of offering the environmental lessons to classrooms, we still have a 98 percent participation rate from all the elementary schools in the City!"

High school students also receive their share of environmental lessons on used oil through their campus' auto shop classes.

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Reaching Out . . . Welcome to *Inside Solid Waste*

If you have an innovative program or information that would be of interest to others in Los Angeles County, or an issue or concern you would like addressed, please submit an article to *Inside Solid Waste*. Articles should be submitted to the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force at P.O. Box 1460, Alhambra, CA 91802-1460, Attention: **Emily Puga-Aragon**. For more information, call (626) 458-3579, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Check out *Inside Solid Waste* on line at www.888CleanLA.com.

Senator Romero Proposes Legislation

During the December Task Force meeting, members were involved in a lively discussion with Michael Miller, Chief of Staff for Senator Gloria Romero about the Senator's plans for legislation to address solid waste issues. Romero would like to introduce three bills relating to the environment including a "Zero Waste Goal" for California, a follow-up to the recommendations that resulted from the State audit of the Waste Board, and a product stewardship policy for E-waste.

The Zero Waste goal received many criticisms from Task Force Members and was an unpopular notion throughout the meeting. Members stated that they are already having difficulty meeting the mandates of AB 939 and such a goal would be impossible to achieve. They also expressed the belief that such legislation would ultimately be used to penalize jurisdictions. The Task Force Chair requested that the Senator support beneficial legislation like allowing jurisdictions diversion credit for conversion technologies, requiring minimum recy-

clad content in packaging, take-back programs or other positive, proven methods that would assist local governments in meeting their goals.

Mr. Miller then detailed Senator Romero's response to the Waste Board audit report. The Senator is considering legislation that would make several changes to the current system including unannounced landfill inspections; allowing the Waste Board's lack of action on a Solid Waste Facility Permit within 60 days of its receipt to be considered as tacit disapproval (currently considered tacit approval); adjusting the surcharge on tipping fees to reflect inflation; and, whether or not to charge out-of-State disposal fees. Again, Task Force members felt that the proposal didn't address the issues adequately or realistically. These changes would potentially overrule local land use decisions, not raise any significant funding or create needed markets for recycled products.

Senator Romero's plans to create a solution for E-Waste currently focus on manufacturer responsibility and a mandatory take-back program. There was support for this proposal among Task Force members.



Torrance *continued from page 1*

In addition to those programs, you can find Wendell and Alison participating in many of the City's community outreach efforts during Earth Day, Public Works Open House, and many other special events held throughout the year. Wendell was also instrumental in designing and building the award-winning Los Angeles County Fair environmental booth sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, and staffed by many of our cities, in 2001.

"Not only has the tonnage of recycling increased, but the response we get from residents has been overwhelming," said Wendell. "We're very impressed with the City's efforts in helping to create an environmentally-conscience community."

We admire the work that Wendell and Alison are doing for the City of Torrance and best of luck in 2002!

RECYCLING MADE EASIER

In September, the City of Santa Clarita unveiled a new addition to the City's environmental education and outreach effort. A mascot named COREY Conservation was introduced and welcomed by the City during a council meeting and has since been used at community events and special presentations.

COREY stands for "Conserve Our Resources and Environment. You can make a difference." COREY's primary function will be to enhance the City's environmental outreach program by appealing to a larger audience, young and old, with the main focus on children. In the past, children have been an untapped audience and the City felt that they are a group willing to learn about environmental issues with the ability to remind their parents about what they have been taught.

To reinforce COREY's messages, an activity book was created featuring the City's Canyon Critters, animals that are found in the open spaces surrounding Santa Clarita. The book addresses several environmental issues including waste reduction and recycling, stormwater quality, energy efficiency, and much more. The response to the new mascot has been very positive and the City has received numerous requests for his presence at other special events.

Through the use of COREY, the City has taken an active role in educating an important audience on several of its environmental programs. For more information on COREY Conservation please contact the City of Santa Clarita Environmental Services Division at (661) 286-4098. A copy of the activity book can be downloaded free of charge at www.santa-clarita.com.



TRASHFORMATION: TURNING TRASH INTO ART

As part of its annual Artisan's Faire in November, the City of Monterey Park added a new competition to the event called "Trashformation". Artists of all ages were able to showcase their creativity and ingenuity by turning trash into art. A variety of materials ranging from newspapers and copper to aluminum cans and plastics were used to create items such as castles, animals, robots, and much more. This event not only served to beautify the environment but also helped to educate the community on alternative uses for what would otherwise have been considered trash.

Contestants were required to either live, work, or attend school in the



*"Bill The Robot 2000" by Stephanie Wang
3rd place, 6-8 grade*

City of Monterey Park. A total of 65 sculptures were entered representing the work of 70 artists. First, second, and third place cash prizes were awarded in a variety of categories ranging from pre-school aged children, to adults in the general public. Although this was the first contest of its kind for the City, plans to continue the contest are already in the works due to the overwhelming response and great success it brought to the Artisan Faire in 2001.

To see photos of all the winners of Trashformation you can visit www.ci.monterey-park.ca.us/PublicWorks/ or call (626) 307-1320 for more information.

DOC

Construction and Demolition Debris Regulatory Requirements

The Department of Conservation (DOC) will distribute the 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 funding packages to eligible cities and counties in January 2002. The allocation of funds for two cycles simultaneously will allow the DOC to start distributing funds at the beginning of the State fiscal year instead of the end.

The package will include one request form showing eligible amounts available for both funding cycles, and the contact information currently on file with the DOC. It will also contain guidelines for the city/county payment program. Cities and counties will also be asked to report the activities funded the prior year, the results and outcomes of those activities, and the amounts expended. Each eligible jurisdiction will receive a minimum of \$5,000 or \$10,000 respectively, or an amount calculated by the DOC on a per capita basis, whichever is greater.

Cities and counties that submit a completed funding request form by the April 30, 2002, deadline date will receive checks as follows:

2001/2002 Funding Cycle	June 30, 2002
2002/2003 Funding Cycle	July 31, 2002

Failure to keep contact information current with the DOC may result in not receiving the funding package and missing the deadline to submit your funding form.

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (Waste Board) is currently developing Construction and Demolition Debris Regulatory Requirements. The proposed regulations will establish permitting requirements for facilities and operations handling construction, demolition, and inert (CDI) debris and set minimum standards. In December 2000, the Board set a two-phase development process for CDI debris. Phase I addresses transfer and handling facilities and operations and Phase II addresses disposal facilities.



On January 23, 2002, the Waste Board instructed its staff to begin the process of formally noticing the Phase I regulations. It is unknown when the comment period will begin. The Waste Board will release draft text for the Phase II regulations within the next few months and has been hosting workshops since December 2001.

The Phase I regulations would place CDI transfer and handling facilities and operations into tiers with the highest tier requiring a full Solid Waste Facility Permit. This and other requirements may negatively impact the ability of CDI debris transfer and handling facilities and operations to conduct business and may negatively impact markets for CDI debris. Phase I would also define storage of CDI debris as disposal if stored longer than established time limits. During the workshops, CIWMB staff indicated that this "disposal" would not count towards a local jurisdiction's disposal numbers for meeting the State's waste reduction mandate.

TASK FORCE MEETINGS

Meetings will be held at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Headquarters, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra.

February 21
March 21
April 18

All meetings are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. in conference room A

For information call Amy Sloboda at (626) 458-3547. M -Th, 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Legislative Update

NEW LAWS

Below is a listing of solid waste management Bills that were passed and chaptered as the State Legislature ended its 2001 Legislative Session.

AB 173 (CHAVEZ) **SOLID WASTE: FEES**

Prior to January 1, 2002, all inert wastes "disposed" on property where surface mining operations are conducted were exempt from the State disposal fee (\$1.40/ton). The exemption was to sunset on January 1, 2002.

This law, which the Task Force supported, requires the California Integrated Waste Management Board (Waste Board) by January 1, 2004, to adopt regulations that establish an appropriate level of oversight of the management of construction and demolition waste and inert waste at mine reclamation sites. The law extends the fee exemption to the first January 1st after the new regulations become effective.

AB 1187 (SIMITIAN) **SOLID WASTE: RECYCLING TIRES: USED OIL**

This law allows used oil collection centers to accept more than 20 gallons of used oil from a person per day and allows the district attorney or county counsel to petition the superior court for an injunction for the removal of an illegal tire stockpile if the State Attorney General declines or is unable to file the petition within 45 days of the Waste Board's request.

AB 1553 (KEELEY) **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: GUIDELINES**

This law requires the Office of Planning and Research to adopt guidelines to give local governments a policy framework to address environmental justice matters in city and county general plans.

SB 88 (COSTA) **AIR POLLUTION: ODORS**

Prior to January 1, 2002, odors emanating from a composting operation fall within the purview of the Local Enforcement Agency and not the local air quality management district. This law extends this authority to April 1, 2003 or until the Waste Board adopts regulations governing the operation of compost facilities.

SB 373 (TORLAKSON) **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: WASTE: RECYCLING**

This law requires the Waste Board to develop models and school waste reduction tools that may be used by schools, school districts, county offices, and local agencies to implement waste reduction programs, as well as to provide them with training and ongoing technical and information assistance.

SB 624 (SOTO) **VEHICLES: GARBAGE: COVER**

Requires vehicle(s) transporting waste cardboard to be completely covered during transport.

AB 1201 (PAVLEY) **STORMWATER POLLUTION: USED OIL RECYCLING FUNDS**

This law would allow the Waste Board to issue grants and loans from used oil funds to local governments or non-profit entities for all projects relating to stormwater pollution prevention. Additionally, local governments would be prohibited from receiving a grant or loan for these purposes unless the local government certifies that it has a stormwater management program approved by the appropriate regional water quality control board and the project is consistent with the program.



What's Up?

COLLECTION EVENTS are open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. For further information, residents are invited to call the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, at **1(888)CLEAN-LA (253-2652)**. For information about **City of Los Angeles** events call **1(800)98-TOXIC (988-6942)**.

January 26	Hermosa Beach - Clark Stadium Valley Dr. between 8th and 11th St.
February 2	Baldwin Park - Washington Mutual Property, 5050 Commerce Drive
February 2 - 3	Pacific Palisades - 15777 Bowdoin St. Upper Parking Lot, Behind Football Field
February 9	Diamond Bar - City Streets Gateway Corporate Center 1300 block of Bridge Gate Dr.
February 23	Bell - Bell City Yard 5320 Gage Ave.
March 9 - 10	Van Nuys - LAUSD District "C" Office 6621 Balboa Blvd., Back Transportation Parking Lot, Enter from Haynes St.
March 16	Claremont - Claremont City Yard 215 Cornell Ave.
March 23	Artesia - Padelford Park 169th St. and Clarkedale Ave.
March 23	Long Beach - Veterans Stadium 5000 Lew Davis St.
April 6	South Gate - South Gate Park Tweedy Blvd. at Hildreth Ave.
April 14	El Monte - El Monte Airport 4233 N. Santa Anita Ave.
April 18 - 20	Northridge - Cal State Northridge Corner Parking Lot, Lindley Ave. & Lassen St. <i>Electronic waste accepted on Saturday</i>
April 20	Santa Clarita - The College of the Canyons, Parking Lot 7, Valencia Blvd. and Rockwell Canyon Rd.



Question: Why do prescription drugs and other pharmaceuticals have to be disposed of with the same consideration as solvents, pesticides or other hazardous chemicals?

Answer: Pharmaceutical drugs given to people and to domestic animals constitute a newly discovered class of water pollutants. Anywhere from 30 to 60 drugs -- including antibiotics, hormones, strong pain killers, tranquilizers, and chemotherapy chemicals -- can be measured in a typical water sample. The concentrations of many of the drugs are comparable to the low parts-per-billion (ppb) levels at which pesticides are typically found.

Since there is no practical way to determine the long term effect of these drugs or to determine the many chemical interactions that could occur, prevention is the only solution to such a problem.

Unused or surplus pharmaceutical drugs have to be collected and disposed of in accordance with the requirements of Assembly Bill 939.

To comply with State requirements, the County of Los Angeles and many cities offer residential Hazardous Waste Collection Events on the weekends.

Many residents are not aware that leftover or expired medicines and drugs are HHW and must be disposed of properly.



AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

City of West Covina

ARROYO SECO FEST

On November 15, 2001, the City of West Covina stressed the importance of reduce, reuse, and recycle- the Three R's - to the hundreds of kids that attend the City's after-school childcare facilities. Each site competed to create an art project made from recycled or reused material emphasizing the Three R's, and expressing the theme, "America the Beautiful".

City staff coordinated the projects at the childcare sites. Judges had a difficult time selecting a winner. In the end, Orangewood Daycare edged out the other five campuses with their rendition of the American flag. The flag was constructed out of recycled cardboard and soda cans. The winning site took home water bottles, recycling kits, and grab bags containing recycling information.

The West Covina City Hall also hosted environmental mascots like the City's oil recycling expert Shana T, Recycle Rex, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works' Environmental Defenders "Ally" Luminum and "Polly" Ethylene, Athens' Tommy O, and Replant's Ms. Bock. Participants energetically worked together to educate kids that conservation and recycling efforts are essential to save our planet. The kids were also taught about solid waste and how cans, bottles, and other recyclables gain a second life from recycling and help reduce waste.

In a world that wastes resources, it is good to know that efforts such as these are in place to remind and encourage citizens to take proactive steps to preserve our natural resources. Thanks to the City of West Covina and all the participants that helped make America Recycles Day an important event for hundreds of children and their families.

For more information about the City of West Covina's environmental programs call (626) 814-8411.

The second annual Arroyo Seco Fest was held at Brookside Park in Pasadena on Saturday, November 17, 2001, to celebrate America Recycles Day. The festival was designed to inspire the public to recycle more and to purchase recycled products.

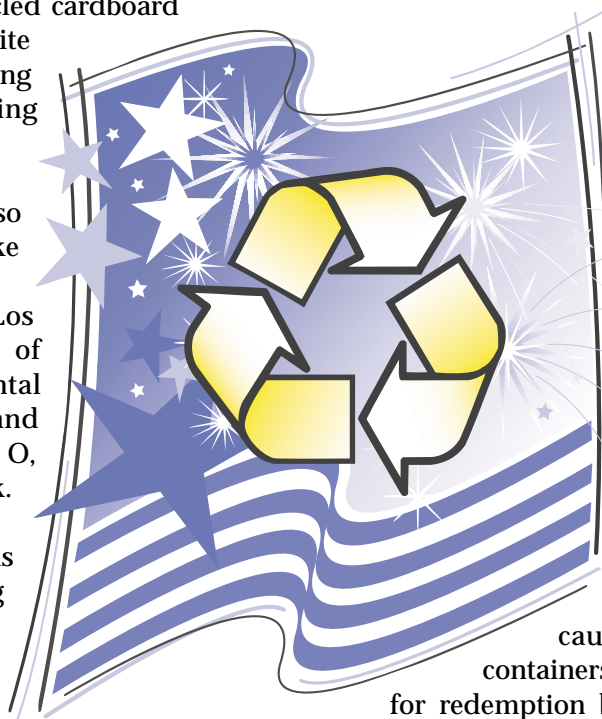
A fashion show of original designs made from recycled materials was the highlight of the on-stage presentations. Also on stage was Sunrize, a band that plays with instruments crafted from fallen urban wood, and members of the San Dimas Nature Center who displayed raptors and animals from the wild.

Jeanine Hernandez, creator of the "Bubbles and Friends" television show and founder of Earth Wise Friends, served as master of ceremonies.

A special workshop on used oil recycling and environmentally responsible car care took place and there were hourly drawings for automotive door prizes donated by Pep Boys, Jiffy Lube, AutoZone, and Kragen Auto stores. Residents were also able to support a worthy cause by donating beverage containers which were later transported for redemption by Waste Management with all proceeds going to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

Food vendors and more than 25 environmental organizations were on hand to answer questions and distribute promotional, educational, and energy-saving materials. The event was funded by grants from the California Integrated Waste Management Board and the California Department of Conservation.

Congratulations to the City of Pasadena for putting together an exciting and educational event for everyone to enjoy. For more information about Arroyo Seco Fest or the City of Pasadena please call (626) 744-4721.





Please remember in 2002 and always, the health and safety of our families, neighborhoods and environment is threatened when household hazardous waste is stored or disposed of improperly.

Call 1(888)CLEAN LA or visit www.888CleanLA.com for more information.